

McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act of 2001
Title X, Part C of the *No Child Left Behind Act*
Public Law 107-110

State Plan for the Education of
Tennessee's Homeless Children and Youth



State of Tennessee
Department of Education

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Introduction

The United States Congress passed the *Stewart B McKinney Homeless Assistance Act* (PL 100-77) on July 22, 1987. On November 29, 1990 President George Bush signed into law the *McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendments* of 1990 (PL 101-645). Some additional amendments to the Act were made in 1994. On January 8, 2002 President George W. Bush signed into law the *McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act of 2001* (Title X, Part C of the *No Child Left Behind Act* (PL 107-110)).

The *Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Education Act* was developed to provide a comprehensive federal law to deal with America's Homeless. The *McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act* prescribes that homeless children have access to a free, appropriate public education, including access to public preschool programs. These requirements are consistent with Tennessee laws.

The Tennessee Department of Education has utilized the *McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act* to develop a State Plan to ensure that Tennessee's homeless children and youth have access to a free, appropriate public education. A state coordinator, who is a member of the Federal Programs Unit, has been designated to administer the provisions of the Act. Through the State Plan, the responsibilities of the *McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act* will be communicated to school districts, homeless shelters, coalitions for the homeless, and other interested parties.

This State Plan will be distributed to all public school systems in Tennessee to increase the awareness of the sensitivity on the part of public school personnel and to heighten the awareness of such personnel to the specific educational needs of homeless children and youth.

In Tennessee, every homeless child shall be provided services that are comparable to services offered to non-homeless students in their school of attendance. A policy central to the *McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act* is that homelessness alone shall not be a sufficient reason to separate students from the mainstream environment. Homeless children and youth will have access to educational and other services that such children and youth need to meet the same challenging state student academic standards to which all children are held.

The children and youth of Tennessee who are homeless are many times the victims of decisions and actions of which they have little control. By meeting the mandates of the *McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act*, barriers to a high-quality education will be removed and the direct assistance these children so deeply need and richly deserve will be provided.

Policy Statement

Section 721(l)(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act:

The following is the policy of the Congress:

1. Each State educational agency shall ensure that each child of a homeless individual and each homeless youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as provided to other children and youth.
2. In any State that has a compulsory residency requirement as a component of the State's compulsory school attendance laws or other laws, regulations, practices, or policies that may act as a barrier to the enrollment, attendance, or success in school of homeless children and youth, the State will review and undertake steps to revise such laws, regulations, practices, or policies to ensure that homeless children and youth are afforded the same free, appropriate public education as provided to other children and youth.
3. Homelessness alone is not sufficient reason to separate students from the mainstream school environment.
4. Homeless children and youth should have access to the education and other services that such children and youth need to ensure that such children and youth have an opportunity to meet the same challenging State student academic achievement standards to which all students are held.

Definitions

Homeless Children and Youth

According to Section 725(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act, the term 'homeless children and youth'--

- A. means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence (within the meaning of section 103(a)(1)) ['one who (1) lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate residence or (2) has a primary nighttime residence in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter for temporary accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill), an institution providing temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized, or a public or private place not designated for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.']; and
- B. includes--
 - (i) children and youth who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement;
 - (ii) children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings (within the meaning of section 103(a)(2)(C));
 - (iii) children and youth who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
 - (iv) migratory children (as such term is defined in section 1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965) who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii)."

In Section 725(6), **'the term 'unaccompanied youth' includes a youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.'**

A fixed residence is one that is stationary, permanent, and not subject to change. A regular residence is one which is used on a regular (i.e., nightly) basis. An adequate residence is one which is sufficient for meeting both the physical and psychological needs typically met in home environments. According to the McKinney-Vento Act, children who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate residence are considered homeless.

Section 103(c) of the Act specifically excludes from the definition of homeless individuals any person who is imprisoned or otherwise detained by Act of Congress or State law. Therefore, children who are incarcerated or in correctional facilities are generally not to be considered homeless.

Free and Appropriate Public Education

Based on the Act's definition, "free and appropriate public education" means the provision of services for which the child would be eligible if not homeless in the same manner as that provided to other students who are similarly eligible for the service. Therefore, homeless children shall be eligible for transportation services, compensatory education services, bilingual education services, special education services, school meal programs, preschool programs, or any other programs offered by the local school division for which the homeless child or youth is otherwise eligible.

School Age

Tennessee Code 49-6-3001(b)(1) states that any child residing within the state who is six years of age or will become six years of age on or before September 30th may enter at the beginning of the term the public school designated by the local board of education having appropriate jurisdiction. However, school age, for the purposes of this plan, exceeds these limits whenever the school division offers services to children younger or older than the required ages. For instance, if the division offers a preschool program to three- and four-year-olds, then homeless three- and four-year-olds shall be considered to be of school age if they would otherwise qualify for the division's preschool program. Special education services, as required under the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act, would apply to children experiencing homelessness from birth through age 21.

Provisions of the State Plan

The Tennessee State Plan for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth is herein revised in accordance with the ***McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act***. The Tennessee Department of Education will administer the State Plan to assure that each homeless child and youth shall have access to a free, appropriate public education. Each provision identified in the plan contains the description to address the provision.

Section 722(g) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act:

(g) STATE PLAN-

(1) IN GENERAL- Each State shall submit to the Secretary a plan to provide for the education of homeless children and youth within the State. Such plan shall include the following:

A. A description of how such children and youth are (or will be) given the opportunity to meet the same challenging State academic achievement standards all students are expected to meet.

| Proposed Activities | Timeline |
|--|-------------------------|
| The Tennessee State Plan for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth will be disseminated to all Tennessee school systems. Local liaisons will be trained to fulfill the new requirements of the McKinney-Vento Act. This will further enhance Tennessee's ability to ensure access for homeless children and youth to a high-quality education so that they can meet our state's challenging academic achievement standards. We will also continue to explain the authorization to LEAs at various meetings, monitoring visits, and conferences. | August 2002 and ongoing |

B. A description of the procedures the State educational agency will use to identify such children and youth in the State and to assess their special needs.

| Proposed Activities | Timeline |
|--|-----------------------|
| The Tennessee Department of Education will continue to work closely with local school systems, homeless shelters, social services agencies, and coalitions for the homeless, to identify and provide educational opportunities for homeless children and youth. | Ongoing |
| The coordinator will obtain data from status reports on homelessness and send it to all Tennessee school directors and superintendents on an annual basis. | Ongoing |
| The state coordinator will also provide training to local liaisons that will help them identify children in homeless situations and ensure that these children are not exempted from statewide achievement testing and that they are encouraged to be present on test dates. | Fall 2002 and ongoing |

C. A description of procedures for the prompt resolution of disputes regarding the educational placement of homeless children and youths.

| Proposed Activities | Timeline |
|---|-----------------------|
| Any dispute regarding the educational placement of a homeless child or youth shall be reported to the LEA school board office, where a record of the dispute should be made and referred to the homeless education coordinator. LEA officials should review the State Plan and the <i>McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act</i> . LEA officials should also review the LEA Assurances to the Tennessee Department of Education regarding the removal of barriers to enrollment, school selection, and the provision of comparable services. All parties (principals, homeless coordinators, child's parents/guardians, social worker, and youth involved) shall meet, discuss the issue; and arrive at a decision. Resolutions of disputes regarding educational placement shall be accomplished within ten school days. Disputes not resolved within ten school days are to be reported to the state coordinator for the education of homeless children and youth. The state coordinator will then take the necessary action to promptly resolve the dispute in accordance with the <i>McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act</i> . The child/youth must be immediately admitted to the school in which he/she is seeking enrollment, pending resolution of the dispute. The parent/guardian must be provided with a written explanation of the school's decision on the dispute and shall have the right to appeal the decision. | July 2002 and ongoing |

D. A description of programs for school personnel (including principals, attendance officers, teachers, enrollment personnel, and pupil services personnel) to heighten the awareness of such personnel of the specific needs of runaway and homeless youth.

| Proposed Activities | Timeline |
|--|-------------------------|
| The Homeless Education State Plan, publications, and periodic communications shall be constructed and distributed to all school systems in Tennessee to increase the awareness of public school personnel (principals, attendance officers, teachers, and enrollment personnel) of the specific educational needs of school-age runaway and homeless children and youth. | August 2002 and ongoing |
| The state coordinator for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth shall develop relationships and coordinate activities with other relevant education programs and providers of services to homeless children, homeless families, and runaway and homeless youth in order to improve the provisions of comprehensive services to homeless children and their families. | Fall 2002 and ongoing |
| The State Department of Education will develop and disseminate brochures that focus on suggestions for how to help the homeless student and the types of assistance needed. This information will also be available on Tennessee's Homeless Education web site. In addition, presentations at training sessions, education meetings, and conferences by the state coordinator and various speakers will serve to heighten the awareness of school personnel. | Fall 2002 and ongoing |

| Proposed Activities (Continued) | Timeline |
|--|-----------------------|
| All LEA grant recipients, through their Homeless Education Coordinator, will also be required to conduct awareness and outreach activities. The state coordinator will collaborate and coordinate with LEA Liaisons on ways to heighten awareness of school personnel. | Fall 2002 and ongoing |
| The training of local liaisons will include strategies for identification of homeless children and youth and approaches to conducting needs assessments. | Fall 2002 and ongoing |
| The <i>Local Homeless Education Liaison Toolkit</i> , posters, brochures, and other informational materials will be distributed. | Fall 2002 and ongoing |

E. Description of procedures that ensure that homeless children and youth who meet the relevant eligibility criteria are able to participate in Federal, State, or local food programs.

| Proposed Activities | Timeline |
|--|-----------------------|
| The Free and Reduce Price Meal Eligibility policy for homeless children is posted on Tennessee's School Nutrition web site and is disseminated to all School Food Service Directors in Tennessee. | Ongoing |
| All systems will be required to assure compliance regarding federal, state, or local food programs. These programs will also be reviewed by the state coordinator during meetings and conferences. The School Nutrition Office will monitor LEAs for compliance. | Fall 2002 and ongoing |

F. A description of procedures that ensure that--

- (i) **Homeless children have equal access to the same public preschool programs, administered by the State agency, as provided to other children in the State;**
- (ii) **Homeless youth and youth separated from the public schools are identified and accorded equal access to appropriate secondary education and support services; and**
- (iii) **Homeless children and youth who meet the relevant eligibility criteria are able to participate in Federal, State, or local before- and after-school care programs.**

| Proposed Activities | Timeline |
|---|-----------------------|
| All LEAs will be required to assure compliance with this requirement. This requirement will be explained in presentations made by the state coordinator at meetings, training sessions, and conferences. | Ongoing |
| Federal programs staff will conduct compliance monitoring. | Fall 2002 and ongoing |
| LEAs will be required to provide parents and youth with information explaining that homeless children and youth are to be afforded the same access to before- and after- school programs as are children with established residences. LEAs will also be required to provide shelters with brochures and posters. In addition, this information will be provided on Tennessee's Homeless Education web site. | Fall 2002 and ongoing |

G. Strategies to address problems identified in the report provided to the Secretary under subsection 722(f)(3).

| Proposed Activities | Timeline |
|--|-----------------|
| Any problems identified in the report that appear to be statewide will be addressed. If problems are caused by current policies and laws, the State will review and revise these laws or policies that may act as barriers to enrollment, attendance, or success in school of homeless children and youth. | Ongoing |

H. Strategies to address other problems with respect to the education of homeless children and youth, including problems resulting from enrollment delays that are caused by--

- (i) **immunization and medical records requirements;**
- (ii) **residency requirements;**
- (iii) **lack of birth certificates, school records, or other documentation;**
- (iv) **guardianship issues; or**
- (v) **uniform or dress code requirements.**

| Proposed Activities | Timeline |
|---|-----------------------|
| LEAs will be required to provide assurances that barriers resulting in enrollment delays have been removed. Federal programs staff will monitor to ensure compliance. | July 2002 and ongoing |

I. A demonstration that the State educational agency and local educational agencies in the State have developed, and shall review and revise, policies to remove barriers to the enrollment and retention of homeless children and youth in schools in the State.

| Proposed Activities | Timeline |
|--|-----------------------|
| The Tennessee State Plan will be provided to all LEAs in Tennessee. | Summer 2002 |
| The Tennessee Department of Education has required all LEAs in Tennessee to assure compliance with the McKinney-Vento Act. All LEAs will be required to provide an annual assurance to the SEA. LEA Assurances are on file in the state federal programs office. | July 2002 and ongoing |
| The Tennessee Department of Education will continue to review policies, rules, and regulations to identify barriers, and if necessary, propose appropriate amendments. Monitoring visits to local systems will be conducted by federal program personnel. | Ongoing |

J. Assurances that--

- (i) **the State educational agency and local educational agencies in the State will adopt policies and practices to ensure that homeless children and youth are not stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their status as homeless;**

| Proposed Activities | Timeline |
|---|-----------------------|
| The importance of this requirement will be explained in meetings and training sessions with LEA liaisons, monitoring visits, and conferences. Local systems will also be advised of Section 723(A)(2) that allows LEA grant services to also be made available to non-homeless children or youth who are at-risk of failing in, or dropping out of, school. Priority, of course, shall be given to homeless children. | Fall 2002 and ongoing |

| Proposed Activities (Continued) | Timeline |
|--|-----------------|
| LEAs will be monitored for compliance when federal programs staff conduct on-site reviews. | Ongoing |

- (ii) **local educational agencies will designate an appropriate staff person, who may also be a coordinator for other Federal programs, as a local educational agency liaison for homeless children and youth, to carry out the duties described in paragraph (6)(A); and**

| Proposed Activities | Timeline |
|--|-----------------------|
| LEAs will be required to provide the name and contact information of the designated homeless liaison on their Federal Programs Local Consolidated Application. | July 2002 and ongoing |

- (iii) **the State and its local educational agencies will adopt policies and practices to ensure that transportation is provided, at the request of the parent or guardian (or in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the liaison), to and from the school of origin, as determined in paragraph (3)(A), in accordance with the following, as applicable:**

- (I) **If the homeless child or youth continues to live in the area served by the local educational agency in which the school of origin is located, the child's or youth's transportation to and from the school of origin shall be provided or arranged by the local educational agency in which the school of origin is located.**
- (II) **If the homeless child's or youth's living arrangements in the area served by the local educational agency of origin terminate and the child or youth, though continuing his or her education in the school of origin, begins living in an area served by another local educational agency, the local educational agency of origin and the local educational agency in which the homeless child or youth is living shall agree upon a method to apportion the responsibility and costs for providing the child with transportation to and from the school of origin. If the local educational agencies are unable to agree upon such method, the responsibility and costs for transportation shall be shared equally.**

| Proposed Activities | Timeline |
|--|-----------------------|
| Local assurances have been included in the Federal Programs Local Consolidated Application. LEAs will be monitored for compliance when Federal Programs on-site reviews are conducted. | July 2002 and ongoing |

- 2. COMPLIANCE-IN GENERAL-Each plan adopted under this subsection shall also describe how the State will ensure that local educational agencies in the State will comply with the requirements of paragraphs (3) through (7).**

Activities detailing how LEAs will comply with the requirements of the McKinney-Vento Act, paragraphs (3) through (7) are presented below.

B. COORDINATION- Such plan shall indicate what technical assistance the State will furnish to local educational agencies and how compliance efforts will be coordinated with the local educational agency liaisons designated under paragraph (1)(J)(ii).

Activities that apply across sections 723(g)(3) through (7) are found in the following table which outlines a plan of action to further address the requirement of Section 723(g)(2)(B).

| Proposed Activities | Timeline |
|---|-----------------|
| Introduction to the requirements of the McKinney-Vento Act on Tennessee's Homeless Education web site, the Commissioner's weekly updates, and via federal programs e-mail groups. | Spring 2002 |
| Training workshops for local liaisons (conducted by the state coordinator using developed by the National Center for Homeless Education for State Coordinators). | Fall 2002 |
| Regional presentations and training for new liaisons in collaboration with other <i>No Child Left Behind</i> training for LEAs. | Ongoing |
| Revise the current Homeless Education Coordinators e-mail group to include local liaisons. Provide useful resources and information to local liaisons via the internet, Tennessee's Homeless Education web site, and e-mail. | Ongoing |
| Explore opportunities to collaborate with other service providers for the homeless to provide greater outreach to families and unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness to ensure awareness of the requirements of the McKinney-Vento Act. | Ongoing |
| Encourage involvement and participation in the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth Conference in Los Angeles, CA. | Fall 2003 |

(3) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY REQUIREMENTS-

(A) IN GENERAL- The local educational agency serving each child or youth to be assisted under this subtitle shall, according to the child's or youth's best interest—

- (i) continue the child's or youth's education in the school of origin for the duration of homelessness--
 - (I) in any case in which a family becomes homeless between academic years or during an academic year; or
 - (II) for the remainder of the academic year, if the child or youth becomes permanently housed during an academic year; or
- (ii) enroll the child or youth in any public school that non-homeless students who live in the attendance area in which the child or youth is actually living are eligible to attend.

| Proposed Activities | Timeline |
|---|------------------------|
| Requiring LEAs to assure compliance with this requirement will be a part of the Federal Programs Local Consolidated Application. Federal programs staff will conduct monitoring for compliance. | July 2002 and ongoing. |

(B) BEST INTEREST- In determining the best interest of the child or youth under subparagraph (A), the local educational agency shall--

- (i) to the extent feasible, keep a homeless child or youth in the school of origin, except when doing so is contrary to the wishes of the child's or youth's parent or guardian;**
- (ii) provide a written explanation, including a statement regarding the right to appeal under subparagraph (E), to the homeless child's or youth's parent or guardian, if the local educational agency sends such child or youth to a school other than the school of origin or a school requested by the parent or guardian; and**
- (ii) in the case of an unaccompanied youth, ensure that the homeless liaison designated under paragraph (1)(J)(ii) assists in placement or enrollment decisions under this subparagraph, considers the views of such unaccompanied youth, and provides notice to such youth of the right to appeal under subparagraph (E).**

| Proposed Activities | Timeline |
|---|-----------------------|
| In determining the best interest of the child, the LEA shall comply, to the extent feasible, with the request made by a parent or guardian. Items to be considered are the continuity of the educational program, transportation and travel time, age of student, and any needs for special instructional programming (special education, vocational programs, etc.). Requiring LEAs to assure compliance with this requirement will be a part of the Federal Programs Local Consolidated Application. Federal programs staff will conduct monitoring for compliance. | July 2002 and ongoing |

(C) ENROLLMENT-

- (i) The school selected in accordance with this paragraph shall immediately enroll the homeless child or youth, even if the child or youth is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment, such as previous academic records, medical records, proof of residency, or other documentation.**
- (ii) The enrolling school shall immediately contact the school last attended by the child or youth to obtain relevant academic and other records.**
- (iii) If the child or youth needs to obtain immunizations, or immunization or medical records, the enrolling school shall immediately refer the parent or guardian of the child or youth to the local educational agency liaison designated under paragraph (1)(J)(ii), who shall assist in obtaining necessary immunizations, or immunization or medical records, in accordance with subparagraph (D).**

| Proposed Activities | Timeline |
|--|-----------------------|
| LEAs will be required to post the rights of students experiencing homelessness. The State will disseminate posters to all LEAs. | Fall 2002 and ongoing |
| Include school personnel responsible for enrollment in LEA Liaison training. | Fall 2002 and ongoing |
| Emphasize the use of materials from <i>Local Homeless Education Liaison Toolkit</i> . The toolkit includes the new requirement for immediate enrollment and procedures for subsequent follow up to obtain records. | Fall 2002 and ongoing |

- (D) RECORDS-** Any record ordinarily kept by the school, including immunization or medical records, academic records, birth certificates, guardianship records, and evaluations for special services or programs, regarding each homeless child or youth shall be maintained--
- (i) so that the records are available, in a timely fashion, when a child or youth enters a new school or school district; and
 - (ii) in a manner consistent with section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g).

A school may, without consent of parents or eligible students, release school records of a student to (1) other school officials including teachers within the LEA who have a legitimate educational interest or (2) officials of other schools or school systems in which the student intends to enroll. The release of student records should not be unduly delayed. The instructional placement and program for Tennessee homeless children and youth should begin immediately after the enrollment process is initiated and should not be delayed until records actually arrive. The receiving school district should contact the student's district of origin for oral confirmation that the homeless child or youth had been enrolled and to request the student's records. Homeless students' records should be forwarded immediately to the district requesting such records.

| Proposed Activities | Timeline |
|--|-----------------------|
| The state coordinator shall inform LEAs, who in turn, will inform other appropriate parties such as service providers, and advocates working with homeless families that any record ordinarily kept by the school (including immunization records, academic records, birth certificates, guardianship records, and evaluations for special programs) shall be maintained so the records are available in a timely fashion. | July 2002 and ongoing |
| The office of the state coordinator shall work closely with school districts, to ensure that issues addressing school records of homeless children are resolved quickly by shelter providers. | July 2002 and ongoing |

- (E) ENROLLMENT DISPUTES-** If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment in a school--
- (i) the child or youth shall be immediately admitted to the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute;
 - (ii) the parent or guardian of the child or youth shall be provided with a written explanation of the school's decision regarding school selection or enrollment, including the rights of the parent, guardian, or youth to appeal the decision;
 - (iii) the child, youth, parent, or guardian shall be referred to the local educational agency liaison designated under paragraph (1)(J)(ii), who shall

- carry out the dispute resolution process as described in paragraph (1)(C) as expeditiously as possible after receiving notice of the dispute; and
- (iv) in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the homeless liaison shall ensure that the youth is immediately enrolled in school pending resolution of the dispute.

| Proposed Activities | Timeline |
|---|-----------------------|
| Requiring LEAs to assure compliance with these requirements will be part of the Federal Programs Local Consolidated Application. Federal programs staff will conduct monitoring for compliance. | July 2002 and ongoing |

- (D) **PLACEMENT CHOICE-** The choice regarding placement shall be made regardless of whether the child or youth lives with the homeless parents or has been temporarily placed elsewhere.

| Proposed Activities | Timeline |
|---|-----------------------|
| Requiring LEAs to assure compliance with this requirement will be part of the Federal Programs Local Consolidated Application. Federal programs staff will conduct monitoring for compliance. | July 2002 and ongoing |

- (G) **SCHOOL OF ORIGIN DEFINED-** In this paragraph, the term 'school of origin' means the school that the child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled.

| Proposed Activities | Timeline |
|--|-----------------------|
| LEAs will be required to incorporate the definition of "school of origin" into publications and family brochures provided to parents as well as posters provided to schools and shelters. Tennessee's Homeless Education web site will provide this definition as well. Discussion of this definition will also be included in LEA Liaison training. | Fall 2002 and ongoing |

- (H) **CONTACT INFORMATION-** Nothing in this subtitle shall prohibit a local educational agency from requiring a parent or guardian of a homeless child to submit contact information.

| Proposed Activities | Timeline |
|---|-----------------------|
| Requiring LEAs to assure compliance with this requirement will be a part of the Federal Programs Local Consolidated Application. Federal programs staff will conduct monitoring for compliance. | July 2002 and ongoing |

- (4) **COMPARABLE SERVICES-** Each homeless child or youth to be assisted under this subtitle shall be provided services comparable to services offered to other students in the school selected under paragraph (3), including the following:
- (A) Transportation services.
 - (B) Educational services for which the child or youth meets the eligibility criteria, such as services provided under title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 or similar State or local programs, educational programs for children with disabilities, and educational programs for students with limited English proficiency.

- (C) **Programs in vocational and technical education.**
- (D) **Programs for gifted and talented students.**
- (E) **School nutrition programs.**

| Proposed Activities | Timeline |
|--|-----------------------|
| Tennessee's Homeless Education State Plan will be distributed to all public school systems in Tennessee to increase the level of awareness of public school personnel's obligation to provide comparable services. | Fall 2002 |
| LEA assurances will be provided on the Federal Programs Local Consolidated Application. LEAs will be monitored for compliance by federal programs staff. | July 2002 and ongoing |
| LEAs will be required to provide homeless parents, children, and youth with information concerning eligibility to participate in various programs from brochures distributed in homeless shelters. | Fall 2002 and ongoing |

(5) COORDINATION-

- (A) **IN GENERAL-** Each local educational agency serving homeless children and youth that receives assistance under this subtitle shall coordinate--
 - (i) **the provision of services under this subtitle with local social services agencies and other agencies or programs providing services to homeless children and youth and their families, including services and programs funded under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5701 et seq.); and**
 - (ii) **with other local educational agencies on inter-district issues, such as transportation or transfer of school records.**

| Proposed Activities | Timeline |
|--|-----------------------|
| All LEAs that prepare and file homeless education grant applications will be required to list all agencies and programs contacted in attempts to coordinate services. | June 2002 |
| The state coordinator will review grant requirements with LEAs that are funded and provide technical assistance to them in meeting all of their grant requirements, with an emphasis on coordination with homeless shelters, homeless coalitions, other local educational agencies, and other organizations providing services to homeless children and youth. Coordination of services by LEAs shall include other relevant programs including Title I. | July 2002 and ongoing |
| Every LEA will be required to designate a homeless liaison who shall be required to coordinate services with local agencies and programs providing services to homeless children. | July 2002 and ongoing |
| LEAs will be provided with suggestions for collaboration and sharing of information via letters and/or newsletters. LEA Liaisons will be required to disseminate this information to shelters and other contacts. Other local agencies are being identified to assist liaisons in fulfilling their responsibilities. | Fall 2002 and ongoing |
| LEA assurances will be provided on the Federal Programs Local Consolidated Application. LEAs will be monitored for compliance by federal programs staff. | July 2002 and ongoing |

- (A) **HOUSING ASSISTANCE-** If applicable, each State educational agency and local educational agency that receives assistance under this subtitle shall coordinate with State and local housing agencies responsible for developing the comprehensive housing affordability strategy described in section 105 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12705) to minimize educational disruption for children and youth who become homeless.

| Proposed Activities | Timeline |
|--|-----------------------|
| LEA assurances will be provided on the Federal Programs Local Consolidated Application. LEAs will be monitored for compliance by federal programs staff. | July 2002 and ongoing |
| The state coordinator will advise local LEAs of their responsibilities to coordinate with local housing agencies. | July 2002 and ongoing |
| Coordination responsibilities will be reviewed during training workshops, meetings, conferences, and monitoring visits. | Fall 2002 and ongoing |

- (C) **COORDINATION PURPOSE-** The coordination required under subparagraphs (A) and (B) shall be designed to--
- (i) ensure that homeless children and youth have access and reasonable proximity to available education and related support services; and
 - (ii) raise the awareness of school personnel and service providers of the effects of short-term stays in a shelter and other challenges associated with homelessness.

| Proposed Activities | Timeline |
|--|-----------------------|
| LEA assurances will be provided on the Federal Programs Local Consolidated Application. LEAs will be monitored for compliance by federal programs staff. | July 2002 and ongoing |
| The State will provide support to local liaisons through training and resource identification and development. | Fall 2002 and ongoing |

(6) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY LIAISON-

- (A) **DUTIES-** Each local educational agency liaison for homeless children and youth, designated under paragraph (1)(J)(ii), shall ensure that--
- (i) homeless children and youth are identified by school personnel and through coordination activities with other entities and agencies;
 - (ii) homeless children and youth enroll in, and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in, schools of that local educational agency;
 - (iii) homeless families, children, and youth receive educational services for which such families, children, and youths are eligible, including Head Start and Even Start programs and preschool programs administered by the local educational agency, and referrals to health care services, dental services, mental health services, and other appropriate services;
 - (iv) the parents or guardians of homeless children and youth are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children;

- (v) public notice of the educational rights of homeless children and youth is disseminated where such children and youth receive services under this Act, such as schools, family shelters, and soup kitchens;
- (vi) enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with paragraph (3)(E); and
- (vii) the parent or guardian of a homeless child or youth, and any unaccompanied youth, is fully informed of all transportation services, including transportation to the school of origin, as described in paragraph (1)(J)(iii), and is assisted in accessing transportation to the school that is selected under paragraph (3)(A).

| Proposed Activities | Timeline |
|--|-----------------------|
| LEA assurances will be provided on the Federal Programs Local Consolidated Application. LEAs will be monitored for compliance by federal programs staff. | July 2002 and ongoing |
| The responsibilities listed in Section 723(g)(6)(A) will be included in liaison training and highlighted in a direct mailing to LEA Contacts with a request to review the responsibilities and determine if a change in assignment is warranted to ensure fulfillment of the requirements. | Summer/Fall 2002 |

- (B) NOTICE-** State coordinators established under subsection (d)(3) and local educational agencies shall inform school personnel, service providers, and advocates working with homeless families of the duties of the local educational agency liaisons.

| Proposed Activities | Timeline |
|--|-----------------------|
| Every LEA will be required to identify a homeless liaison who will be required to conduct awareness training for local school staff and to engage in outreach activities. | July 2002 |
| LEA Liaisons will inform school personnel, service providers, and advocates working with homeless families of the duties of the liaisons. | July 2002 and ongoing |
| LEA Contacts are currently posted on Tennessee's Homeless Education web site. The web site listing of LEA contacts will be revised to include LEA Liaisons and a description of responsibilities. | Fall 2002 and ongoing |
| During LEA Liaison training the state will review requirements with LEAs, discuss Homeless Education policies and mandates, specify educational needs of homeless children and youth and place a major emphasis on coordination. | Ongoing |

- (C) LOCAL AND STATE COORDINATION-** Local educational agency liaisons for homeless children and youth shall, as a part of their duties, coordinate and collaborate with State coordinators and community and school personnel responsible for the provision of education and related services to homeless children and youth.

| Proposed Activities | Timeline |
|--|-----------------------|
| The State will use components of successful local homeless education programs in the training of local liaisons. Collaboration is a focus of the local liaison training. | Fall 2002 and ongoing |
| Local liaisons will disseminate materials about McKinney-Vento to school personnel, shelters, and other community entities. | Fall 2002 and ongoing |

(7) REVIEW AND REVISIONS-

- (A) IN GENERAL-** Each State educational agency and local educational agency that receives assistance under this subtitle shall review and revise any policies that may act as barriers to the enrollment of homeless children and youth in schools that are selected under paragraph (3).
- (B) CONSIDERATION-** In reviewing and revising such policies, consideration shall be given to issues concerning transportation, immunization, residency, birth certificates, school records and other documentation, and guardianship.
- (C) SPECIAL ATTENTION-** Special attention shall be given to ensuring the enrollment and attendance of homeless children and youth that are not currently attending school.

| Proposed Activities | Timeline |
|---|-----------------------|
| All LEAs will be required to assure compliance by reviewing and revising any policies that may act as barriers to the enrollment of homeless children and youth. | July 2002 and ongoing |
| A statement of assurances from LEAs will be provided on the Federal Programs Local Consolidated Application and monitoring will be done by federal programs staff. | July 2002 and ongoing |
| During implementation of these activities the Tennessee Department of Education will review the appropriate laws and regulations and take the necessary actions to revise any policies or laws that may act as barriers to the enrollment of homeless children and youth. | July 2002 and ongoing |